

Seatbelt Exemption Certificates

Launceston Medical Centre
Cornwall

Medical Exemption from Wearing a Seatbelt

At **Launceston Medical Centre**, we do not provide medical certificates for exemption from wearing a seatbelt.

This policy reflects our commitment to patient safety and follows current government guidance.

Our Responsibility and Patient Safety

Our primary duty is to protect our patients and promote measures that keep them safe and well.

The law requires all drivers and passengers to wear a seatbelt unless they hold a valid medical exemption certificate. Government guidance for medical practitioners highlights the overwhelming evidence that seatbelts prevent death and serious injury in road traffic collisions.

In a collision at 30 mph, an unrestrained occupant can be thrown forward with a force many times their body weight, significantly increasing the risk of serious injury or death. Seatbelts are proven to reduce the risk of serious injury and save lives.

Because of this clear evidence, there are **no medical conditions, including pregnancy, that automatically qualify for a seatbelt exemption**. Any exemption requires careful assessment of individual circumstances. As NHS General Practitioners, we do not undertake these specialist assessments and therefore do not issue seatbelt exemption certificates.

Further information can be found in the Government guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/medical-exemptions-from-compulsory-seat-belt-wearing/medical-exemption-from-compulsory-seat-belt-wearing-guidance-for-medical-practitioners>

Solutions and Adaptations May Be Available

Many difficulties associated with wearing a seatbelt can be addressed without the need for a medical exemption.

A range of adaptations and accessories are available to improve comfort and safety for individuals with:

- Recent surgery
- Chest conditions or chest wall pain
- Pacemakers or implanted devices
- Stomas
- Physical disabilities or mobility difficulties
- Musculoskeletal conditions

Patients experiencing difficulties are encouraged to explore these options before seeking consideration of an exemption.

If You Believe You Require a Medical Exemption

If adaptations have been tried and you believe that a medical exemption remains necessary, you will need to arrange an assessment through an appropriately qualified independent provider.

As this service falls outside NHS General Medical Services, **Launceston Medical Centre does not provide these assessments or certificates.**

You may wish to contact:

- A private GP service that offers seatbelt exemption assessments.
- An appropriate medical specialist.
- Your employer's Occupational Health service, where applicable.

These providers have the appropriate expertise and indemnity arrangements to undertake a detailed assessment and, where justified, issue a legally recognised medical exemption certificate.

Summary

To promote patient safety and in line with current guidance, **Launceston Medical Centre does not issue medical exemption certificates for seatbelt use.** Patients who feel they may require an exemption should seek advice from a suitably qualified private practitioner or occupational health provider.

Policy owner: Launceston Medical Centre

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